

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED**

NOV 05 2005

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name	Pleasant Ridge Church
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Other name/site number	Sod Church
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2. Location


Street & number 381 East Buffalo Road ☐ not for publication

City or town Phillipsburg ☒ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Phillips Code 147 Zip code 67661

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


9/22/05
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
 Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title	Date
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State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Pleasant Ridge Church
Name of property

Phillips County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: National Folk

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT; METAL: tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property Pleasant Ridge Church County and State Phillips County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1898-1955

Significant Dates

1898

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ Previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property Pleasant Ridge Church

County and State Phillips County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	4	7	8	0	6	0	4	4	2	6	1	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										
2															
3															
4															
	Easting				Northing										

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Shirley M. Stone, Secretary/Treasurer

Organization Pleasant Ridge Historical Society

Date August 11, 2005

Street & number 70208 T Road

Telephone (308) 799-4475

City or town Republican City

State NE

Zip code 68971

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Pleasant Ridge Historical Society

street & number 381 East Buffalo Road

telephone (308) 799-4475 (Shirley Stone)

city or town Phillipsburg

state KS

zip code 67661

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Pleasant Ridge Church
Phillips County, KS

Section number 7 Page 1

Architectural Description

Pleasant Ridge Church is located about 20 miles north of Phillipsburg at 381 East Buffalo Road 3 ¼ miles east of Highway 183. The building faces southward and is situated on a quarter acre of land in the Glenwood Township (T-1-S-R-17-W). This 20' x 32' building was built in 1898 and features a national folk architectural style. A 1940s frame outhouse with a tin gable roof is located north of the church and is considered a contributor to the property. The Pleasant Ridge Cemetery (previously known as the Sod Cemetery) is located across the road south of the church. The cemetery is not included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

Exterior

This simple one room, wood frame building rests on a concrete foundation and features a gable roof with asphalt composition shingles, a bell tower above the entrance, and an internal ridge brick chimney at the rear. Narrow weatherboard siding painted white gives the building a simple, uniform appearance. A concrete walkway leads to the building's only entrance, which is marked by a multi-panel wood door on the south elevation.

Each side elevation contains three evenly spaced 2-over-2 double hung wood windows. These tall, narrow windows provide the interior with ample sunlight. Three of the six windows have screens.

A wood frame, single toilet outhouse (C) is located north of the church. It features a tin gable roof and is painted white.

Interior

Much of the historic interior, comprised of a single large room 20'x 32', remains intact. Vertical wainscoting stretches four feet from the floor to the bottom of the windows. It is stained and varnished with a dark color and is topped with a molding. The interior walls above the stained wainscoting feature horizontal wainscoting, which runs up the walls and over the 11 ½' ceiling and is painted green. The bulls eye trim around the windows and door is stained to match the vertical wainscoting.

Sixteen wooden pews flank a central aisle that leads to a stage with a rise of 12" for the preacher's pulpit at the north end of the interior. At the center of the north wall extends a stovepipe from the chimney. Electricity was installed in 1950, but the building has no plumbing.

The floor is made of pinewood, but was covered with carpet in 1917 and then the current floral patterned linoleum in 1948.

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The building is in good condition, but minor repairs to the concrete foundation and sidewalk, stage floor, and windows are needed.

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Pleasant Ridge Church
Phillips County, KS

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Statement of Significance

The Pleasant Ridge Church (c. 1898) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good local example of the national folk tradition. Its simplistic design and rectangular form allowed for multiple uses of the building including a school and meeting hall. Although formal church services ended in 1969, area residents still use the building for holiday celebrations, weddings, and funerals. With most of its original materials intact, this plain frame church building retains a high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

Historical Overview

Phillips County organized in 1872 and was divided into seven townships with Phillipsburg selected as the county seat. By 1912 there were 25 townships. With successful harvest seasons during the mid- and late 1870s, settlers arrived in growing numbers. Census records indicate a significant growth in population in Phillips County from 2,813 residents in 1875 to 12,014 in 1880. The county's population peaked in 1900 at 14,442.¹ It was during this era of population growth that the Pleasant Ridge Church was constructed.

Architecture

The national folk architectural tradition spread throughout the United States with the expansion of the railroad lines in the mid and late 1800s. No longer were builders restricted to the use of local materials. Railroads transported bulky materials used in construction, particularly lumber from forested areas. Wood frame buildings constructed with massed produced materials quickly replaced log and sod structures. The styles and shapes of modest national folk buildings were more standardized with less emphasis on regional traditions than preceeding architectural styles.²

Sod buildings dotted the early Phillips County landscape where few trees grew. Prior to the construction of Pleasant Ridge Church in 1898, worshippers gathered in a sod church across the road. The Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad was finished through Kirwin and Logan in southern Phillips County in 1880. The Denver extension of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was completed through nearby Republican City, Nebraska, in 1880. This gave residents and businessmen valuable access to eastern markets and later to western markets.

¹ "Historical Census Browser," University of Virginia Library. Accessible online at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>. William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Available online at www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html.

² Virginia McAlister and Lee McAlister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 89-90.

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Pleasant Ridge Church
Phillips County, KS

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The builder of the Pleasant Ridge Church is unknown. Parishioners and area residents most likely collaborated to build the church themselves with mass-produced construction materials shipped from a distant market. The style of the building is similar to country schools and churches of the period. Aside from its simplicity in design, the Quaker tradition is not reflected in the architecture.

Church History

The history of the church pre-dates the existing 1898 structure. In 1882, T.W. and Emily Dunton deeded land to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of "divine worship." A sod building was then erected where the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery is today to be used as a church and schoolhouse. The school organized in 1878, yet the precise date of construction of the original sod building is unknown. The existence of a school *close* to this location is noted on an 1883 Phillips County map produced by Rand, McNally and Company and published with William Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas*. However, personal records indicate that a Reverend Goodredye dedicated the Sod Church in 1884. The school relocated at an unknown date. The trustees of the Methodist Church maintained ownership of the cemetery until 1944 when it was transferred to the trustees of Pleasant Ridge Community. Today, the Pleasant Ridge Church is often called the Sod Church.

In 1898, William and Sarah Boston transferred a small portion of their land to The Kansas Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends for "the use of the pleasant ridge monthly meeting of said society." It is believed that the church was erected at this time for a cost of \$500. More commonly known as Quakers, this organization retained ownership of the land and church until 1989 when the Pleasant Ridge Historical Society, Inc. purchased the property.

The first recorded visit of Quakers into the territory that would later become Kansas was by Henry Harvey, Simon Hadley and Solomon Haddon in 1833. They later established a Quaker mission near Westport Landing along the Missouri River in 1837. Quaker families began moving to the territory after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 to Leavenworth, Osawatomie, and near Emporia. Their numbers totaled 200 by 1857.³ State census numbers from 1882 indicate the existence of 48 Friends organizations with 4,774 members in Kansas.⁴

The name Pleasant Ridge is believed to have originated from the nearby Pleasant Ridge Stock Farm owned by Margaret McFarlane (circa 1900). The cemetery and original sod building sat on

³ Sheldon Jackson, editor. "English Quakers Tour Kansas in 1858: From the Journal of Sarah Lindsey." *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 44, 1 (February 1944). Available online at www.kancoll.org/khq/1944/44_1_jackson.htm.

⁴ Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 1883. Available online at www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html.

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McFarlane's land.⁵ Another possible source for the name Pleasant Ridge comes from Pleasant Ridge Post Office in neighboring Harlan County, Nebraska, that served area residents from 1876 to 1887. Interestingly, in his book *Kansas Place-Names* author John Rydjord notes, "The Kansas pioneers suffered from almost every conceivable hardship, but still they tried to create the impression that Kansas was a pleasant land...One can only conclude that the hills and valleys, ridges and runs, were pleasing to the eyes of the pioneers."⁶

Early settlers of this area included families from Scotland, England, Germany, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Missouri. They also included several Civil War veterans, many of whom are buried in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and have early connections with the church.⁷

A record of church business and events was kept from 1900 to 1969. A secretary would record attendance, the amount of money collected, song titles, and who led prayers. Also noted is the cancellation of church services and classes due to inclement weather and illness, such as small pox. During the early years, attendance averaged 40 to 50 people, with the largest attendance recorded being 87. When church services ended in 1969, attendance averaged 15. With no reason given, the church temporarily closed from December 1937 to April 1938.⁸ Attendance was down and many faced hardships from the economic depression.

Although most of the ministers were circuit riders, it is believed that the first preacher at Pleasant Ridge Church was Reverend Jarbo. Missionaries travelling through the area often stopped to preach. Much of the community, no matter which religious denomination, attended revival meetings at the church. Church leaders hired a janitor in 1905 for general building and cemetery maintenance and chopping firewood. Reverend Jones took over janitorial duties in 1919. A librarian and assistant librarian worked at the church from about 1913 to the 1950s.⁹

⁵ Glenwood Township Platte Map, 1900.

⁶ John Rydjord, *Kansas Place-Names*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), 35.

⁷ These Civil War veterans included Jacob Smith Faubion (Company A, 2nd Missouri Cavalry); Marco D. Stone (Company G, 1st Michigan Regiment, Engineers and Mechanics); S.J. Atkins (Company F, 1st Arkansas Cavalry); David Kinsey (Company H, 5th Kansas Cavalry); Harrison Mount (Company K, 111th Illinois Infantry); Jackson Rambo (Company L, Missouri Cavalry); S.W. Williams (Company E, 2nd Michigan Infantry).

⁸ Notes compiled by Shirley Stone. Copies filed at Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resource Division.

⁹ Ibid.

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The church name varied through its twentieth century history. Records suggest the church was known as the Pleasant Ridge Union Sunday School in 1904 and Pleasant Ridge Federated Church in 1919. The 1919 bylaws called for the church to be in the hands of not less than three elders, three deacons, and three trustees. The elders and deacons oversaw the church government, while trustees appointed committees to oversee Sunday school classes, missionary activities, and the activities of the church.¹⁰

Members of the church were appointed to the Christian Mission Society from 1913 to 1949. The group raised money by serving lunch at farm sales, by making ice-cream and candy, making and selling quilts, and selling apples. The money was then used for flowers at funerals, cards for the sick, maintenance of the church, holiday treats, and supplies for church dinners. They made quilts and other items for orphans in Africa. Their missionary work included donating to the Red Cross and the National War Fund during World War II. They also donated packages to the veterans at Winter General and Victoria Hospital in Topeka. In 1948, the church voted to raise funds for the purchase of a new piano and to sell the old organ.¹¹

The church hosted many activities in the early days, such as Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas and Easter programs, and Father's Day celebrations. No records were found regarding baptisms, but many in the community remember baptisms taking place at the nearby Republican River. One community member recalled that a handkerchief was placed over one's nose and mouth while being dunked three times – once each for the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Regular religious services at the church ended in 1969 and the property was sold to Pleasant Ridge Historical Society, Inc. in 1989. The group has since repaired the roof (1989) and painted the building's exterior. The building is now used for Memorial Day services, weddings, and funerals.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Bibliography

Christian Mission Society Records, 1913-1949. Pleasant Ridge Historical Society, Inc.

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Glenwood Township Platte Map. Phillips County Atlas. 1900.

"Historical Census Browser." University of Virginia Library. Available online at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>.

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Pleasant Ridge Church Records, 1900-1969. Pleasant Ridge Historical Society, Inc.

Rydjord, John. *Kansas Place-Names*. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1972.

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Pleasant Ridge Church
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in Glenwood Township T-1-S-R-17-W on a quarter acre of land.

Boundary Justification

This is the original site and boundaries of the church property.

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National Park Service

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Phillips County, KS

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Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs

1. Pleasant Ridge Church property
2. Phillips County, KS
3. Photograph by Martha Hagedorn-Krass
4. July 2004
5. Negatives on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is applicable to specific photographs

6. View from the southwest
7. Photo #1

6. View from the northwest
7. Photo #2

6. View from the north
7. Photo #3

6. Contributing outhouse, view from the southeast
7. Photo #4

6. Church interior, view from the south
7. Photo #5

6. Church interior, view from the west
7. Photo #6

6. Church interior, close-up of pew, view from southwest
7. Photo #7